

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 H-01 AID-05 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /046 W
-----040220 080747Z /11/75

O R 080620Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4679

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

USMISSION GENEVA

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FOR AF/S AND AID/PHA/PVC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, EAID, WZ

SUBJECT: USG-FUNDED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOUTH
AFRICAN REFUGEE STUDENTS

REFS: (A) MBABANE 1387, (B) MBABANE 1454, (C) MBABANE 1504

1. IN APRIL 21 REF A, EMBASSY REQUESTED STATE/AID VIEWS ON
APPROPRIATENESS OF PHELPS-STOKES REP IDA WOOD'S INTERVIEWING
SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEE STUDENTS WHO MIGHT BE SUITABLE FOR PLACEMENT
AT SECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN AFRICA,
IN ADDITION TO INTERVIEWING THOSE ALREADY WITHIN HER TERMS OF
REFERENCE (E.E. REFUGEE CANDIDATES FOR UNIVERSITY-LEVEL SCHOLARSHIPS
IN US). INTERVIEW OF PERSONS OUTSIDE MS. WOOD'S CURRENT TERMS
OF REFERENCE WOULD PRESUME A USG FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO ASSIST
IN THEIR ONWARD PLACEMENT.

2. REF A REQUESTED REPLY BEFORE MS. WOOD'S ARRIVAL IN MBABANE
MAY 8. NO REPLY HAS BEEN RECEIVED DESPITE EMBASSY FOLLOW-UPS
OF APRIL 27 (REF B) AND MAY 2 (REF C), THE LATTER HAVING INFORMED
DEPARTMENT THAT REFUGEE STUDENTS HAD BEEN RELEASED FROM JAIL
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AND WERE AVAILABLE FOR ONWARD MOVEMENT OUTSIDE SWAZILAND.

3. EMBASSY CERTAIN THAT AMBASSADOR'S INTERVENTIONS WITH PRIME
MINISTER PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLE IN CABINET'S DECISION TO RELEASE
STUDENTS. SINCE THEIR JAILING RESULTED FROM A STREET DEMONSTRATION
THAT WAS AN EXPRESSION OF THEIR FRUSTRATION AT GOS' INSENSITIVE
TREATMENT OF THEM OVER THE LONG-TERM, THE POTENTIAL FOR A

NEW DEMONSTRATION -- AND SURELY HARSHER PUNISHMENT NEXT TIME --
IS VERY HIGH. MANY OF THE STUDENTS WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE SWAZILAND;
AMERICAN MENNONITE GROUP CONDUCTING THEIR SCHOOLING WOULD LIKE TO
SEE THOSE STUDENTS HELPED TO THAT END; UNHCR REP CONCURS; AND
GOS WOULD BE MOST PLEASED OF ALL TO SEE THEM DEPART.

4. WASHINGTON IS AWARE OF CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST (CONG. BEDELL)
IN REFUGEE STUDENTS' FATE. HIS SON KEY'S LAST WORDS ON TAKING
LEAVE FROM EMBASSY APRIL 27, BEFORE DEPARTING FROM COUNTRY
SAME WEEKEND, WERE THAT HE WOULD BE ASKING CONG. BEDELL TO
MAINTAIN ACTIVE INTEREST IN USG BILATERAL EFFORTS TO ASSIST
IN STUDENTS' ONWARD MOVEMENT. MS. WOOD'S MAY 8-12 VISIT, WHICH
WAS PLANNED BEFORE REFUGEE SITUATION REACHED THIS CRITICAL STAGE,
IS FORTUITIOUS DEVELOPMENT THAT SHOULD BE CAPITALIZED ON TO
VAXIMUM EXTENT, FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS QUITE APART FROM ISSUE
OF CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE IMMEDIATE REPLY.
WACHOB

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 08 may 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Format: TEL
From: MBABANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780583/aaaacsuh.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 9ce0b4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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